



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

March 24 to April 14, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 4/14: The city of Stockton, California is gaining valuable intelligence from its use of the NIBIN system. The department is making extensive use of NIBIN, entering both evidence from new cases and evidence from past cases yet unsolved. This commitment has enabled the department to discover links among twenty-six incidents, believed to be gang-related, occurring over a period of two years. As additional case evidence is entered, it is likely that more links will be discovered, further assisting police in their investigations.

Week of 4/7: NIBIN has helped Indianapolis Police Department officers link a stolen pistol to three murders. When police responded to a domestic disturbance in Indianapolis, they removed a pistol for safekeeping, releasing it back to its owner three months later. While in custody, the firearm was testfired and the results stored in the Marion County Crime Laboratory's NIBIN system. Almost two years after this NIBIN entry, the pistol's owner reported that the pistol had been stolen from his vehicle. The next day, a triple murder occurred in Indianapolis. Police recovered cartridge casings at the scene and submitted them for NIBIN entry. NIBIN correlation revealed a potential link between the murders and the stolen pistol, a link that was later confirmed by firearms examiners. Two suspects have been charged in the murders, and investigations continue in the cases.

Week of 3/31: NIBIN recently helped Houston police link a series of eight crimes (armed robberies, shootings, and murders) over the course of eleven months, in which one person was killed and fourteen wounded. The first six incidents occurred within six weeks of each other; then, there were no related incidents for several months. After the last two incidents, a suspect was identified. NIBIN alerted investigators to the potential that the last two incidents and the previous six had been committed using the same weapon, and firearms examiners confirmed this by examination of the original evidence. The time lag between incidents would likely have prevented a firearms examiner from finding the connection without the automated initial comparison that NIBIN provides. When a suspect was identified and arrested, it was found that he had been in jail during the months in which no robberies took place. Additional investigations are still proceeding in the cases. NIBIN has played a crucial role in the investigations, helping Houston police stop a violent criminal.

Week of 3/24: NIBIN has assisted Chicago police in finding a link between an armed suspect and a shooting with no other investigative leads available. In the first incident, a victim was shot and wounded in the City of Chicago. While a physical description was given, no suspect was identified. One cartridge case was recovered at the scene and submitted for IBIS entry at the Illinois State Police's Chicago laboratory. A few months after this incident, a confidential informant told police that one of his associates had committed a shooting and was in possession of a firearm. After the suspect was arrested, his weapon was seized and submitted for testfiring and NIBIN entry. Correlation highlighted a potential link between the arrested suspect and the shooting four months earlier, and this link was confirmed by firearms examiners who compared the original evidence in the cases.